

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4439

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4759

FOR ASST SEC HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR GOULD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL, CI

SUBJECT: FONMIN'S ANSWERS TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS
RE SEC STATE'S ROLE IN CHILE

REF: THE HAGUE 4638

1. REFTEL TRANSMITTED TEXT OF THREE-PART WRITTEN
PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S ALLEGED
ROLE IN CHILEAN AFFAIRS BEFORE ALLENDE'S ADVENT TO POWER
AND DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE THROUGH HIS OVERTHROW. WE
HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL WILL HAVE TO
SUBMIT WRITTEN REPLY ON SEPTEMBER 27. OUR OWN ASSESSMENT
OF DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION CONFIRMS REPORTS FROM
SEVERAL SOURCES THAT THESE ARE VERY TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR
VAN DER STOEL. WE KNOW THAT HE WANTS TO AVOID ADDING
ANY FIRE TO THE CURRENT FUROR ENGENDERED BY THE
RADICAL PARTY, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY THE
HEADQUARTERS AND RADICAL LEFT WING OF HIS OWN LABOR
PARTY. AT THE SAME TIME HIS POLITICAL STANDING AND
CREDIBILITY WILL REQUIRE THAT HE NOT RPT NOT APPEAR
SIMPLY TO BE ENDORSING US ACTIVITIES. THE WAY IN WHICH
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HE ANSWERS THESE QUESTIONS COULD WELL HAVE A MAJOR EFFECT

NOT ONLY ON THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY OVER THE US ROLE IN CHILE BUT ALSO ON THE PUBLIC IMAGE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ONGOING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NETHERLANDS IN THE COMING PERIOD. THIS INCLUDES THE ALL IMPORTANT REPLACEMENT FIGHTER QUESTION, ON WHICH RADICAL ELEMENS OF THE LABOR PARTY ARE TRYING TO BLACK-BALL THE SELECTION OF AN AMERICAN PLAN BECAUSE, INTER ALIA, OF THE US ROLE IN CHILE (THE HAGUE'S 4694).

2. IN AN EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL WE HAVE PROVIDED THE FONOFF WITH CURRENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY AND THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN. HOWEVER, IN OUR JUDGEMENT THEY MAY NOT SUFFICE TO MEET VAN DER STOEL'S PRLBLEM. WHAT HE NEEDS IS A BRIEF STATEMENT, HAND-TAILORED TO THE THRUST OF THE PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED REFTEL. SUCH A STATEMENT SHOULD BE RELEASABLE TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT BELIEVE VAN DER STOEL WOULD USE IT VERBATIM BUT RATHER WOULD DRAW ON IT IN FRAMING HIS OWN REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS. FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE OF VAN DER STOEL'S PARLIAMENTARY DEADLINE WE WOULD NEED TO HAVE THE STATEMENT NO LATER THAN THE OPENING OF BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 27.

3. WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS A DIFFICULT REQUEST, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, WE HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE US WITH A STATEMENT THAT WILL ENABLE VAN DER STOEL TO FORD THIS TURBULENT STREAM WITH MINIMUM DAMAGE TO HIS OWN POSITION AND TO US-DUTCH RELATIONS. HE WANTS AS ALWAYS TO BE HELPFUL TO THE US POSITION IN THE NETHERLANDS AND HE DESERVES THE MOST EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE WE CAN GIVE HIM AT THIS DIFFICULT JUNCTURE.
GOULD

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